

CLAIMS:

1. A mold member for use in blow molding articles of plastics material, the mold member comprising: a hollow body having an inner wall defining a mold cavity and an integral outer wall joined thereto to define a hollow interior between said inner wall and said outer wall; the outer wall defining therein an inlet port for admission of coolant fluid into said hollow interior and an outlet port for exhausting coolant fluid from said hollow interior; and the mold member being formed of nickel.
2. A mold member according to claim 1 wherein the inner wall has a uniform wall thickness in the area of the mold cavity.
3. A mold member according to claim 2 wherein the thickness of the inner wall is between 2 and 6 millimeters.
4. A mold member according to claim 1 wherein the mold member is produced by nickel vapor deposition.
5. A mold member according to claim 1 wherein the mold member further includes an integral hollow support extending between the mold member inner and outer walls for reinforcement of the mold.
6. A mold member according to claim 1 wherein the mold member further includes integral stand-offs extending between the mold member inner and outer walls.
7. A mold member according to claim 5 wherein said hollow support is a first hollow support, and further comprising a plurality of additional hollow supports spaced-apart and extending between said outer wall of the mold member and said inner wall of the mold member for reinforcement of the mold member and for causing augmentation of

the flow of coolant fluid within the hollow interior.

8. A mold member according to claim 1 wherein said outer wall is formed with grooves which protrude into said hollow interior for causing augmentation of the flow of coolant fluid within the hollow interior.

9. A mold member according to claim 1 and further comprising a holder to which the mold member is releasably secured, the holder defining cooling passages in communication with said inlet and outlet ports.

10. A mold member according to claim 9 further comprising a protruding locator pin mounted in the holder, and the outer wall of the mold member defining a recess for receiving the locator pin.

11. A mold member according to claim 10 wherein the locator pin is of tapered form and the recess is of correspondingly tapered form.

12. A mold member according to claim 10 wherein the recess in the outer wall of the mold member is defined by an encapsulated bushing integrally formed with the mold member.

13. A mold member according to claim 1 wherein the inner wall has a parting line inner face surrounding said cavity, the inner face defining grooves extending to a peripheral edge of said inner face for permitting exhaustion of air from within the mold cavity during blow molding of articles of plastics material.

14. A mold member according to claim 1 wherein the mold cavity has a base end including a knife edge for severing plastics material at said base end of the mold cavity

in extrusion blow molding of articles of plastics material.

15. A mold member according to claim 1 and further comprising at least one connector assembly extending between said outer wall and said inner wall, the connector assembly defining an orifice therethrough, and including a hollow insert located in said orifice and partially encapsulated in said connector assembly.

16. A mold member according to claim 15 wherein the connector assembly further includes a porous vent plug communicating with the hollow insert for applying a vacuum to the vent plug for in-mold labelling.

17. A mold member as claimed in claim 1 and further comprising an upstanding handle protrusion located in the mold cavity and adapted to mate with a like protrusion in a mating mold member to produce handleware blow molded articles.

18. A mold member as claimed in claim 1 wherein the hollow body has an open base end portion, and further comprising a base mold member adapted to cooperate with the hollow bodies of two mating mold members to form a closed blow mold.

19. A mold member according to claim 17 wherein the upstanding handle protrusion has a knife edge for severing plastics material disposed between mating handle protrusions during blow molding of articles of plastics material.

20. A mold member as claimed in claim 1 wherein the hollow body is a first hollow body having a cavity defining a portion of an article of plastic material to be blow molded, and further comprising a second like hollow body having a cavity adapted to mate with said first hollow body cavity to define a further portion of said article to be blow molded.